

TRIBUTE TO MR. EDUARDO
ANDRES LUCIO, SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Eduardo Andres Lucio, Sr., the father of the Texas State Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr., who recently passed away on September 4, 2006 at 89 years of age.

Eduardo Andres Lucio, Sr., was born on November 10, 1916, in the City of Brownsville in the State of Texas to his parents, Teodoro Lucio and Maria Antonia Lopez Lucio. He then was baptized into the Roman Catholic Church at the historic Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Brownsville on June 11, 1916. He was one of 11 children: eight brothers and three sisters.

Mr. Lucio also has a long familial lineage that stretches all the way back to King Ferdinand the Catholic of Spain, and several of his ancestors were conquistadores who fought with Hernan Cortez in the early 1500s in Mexico. Some of the descendants of his ancestors include the founders of Matamoros, Monterrey, Mier, Saltillo, and Camargo, Mexico.

In 1937, during the Great Depression, he worked at the Chapman Ranch in Kingsville, Texas, and joined the Civilian Conservation Corps in Bonita Canyon in the small town of Douglas in Arizona. He later met and fell in love with his wife, Josefa Liendo, who would become his future wife of 65 years and mother to his 10 children. He then joined the United States Army Air Corps on December 30, 1941, in San Antonio, Texas, to fight on behalf of the United States of America in World War II. He was a part of the 46th Service Squadron which served in North Africa and in Italy.

Mr. Lucio was honorably discharged from the Army of the United States on July 3, 1945, for a near-fatal injury which he had suffered in battle. He has various decorations and citations which include the EAME Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, four Bronze Service Stars, and four Overseas Bars. In 1996, during a ceremony held in the City of McAllen in the State of Texas, other World War II medals and ribbons were given to him by Vice President Al Gore.

He worked hard for his family by achieving his goals of a higher education, first with the diploma from Brownsville High School on May 30, 1949, and then an Associate in Business Degree from Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, Texas, on May 29, 1950. He then worked at the Cameron County Courthouse in the Sheriff's Office for almost 30 years, and in his last 3 years, he served as Head Office Deputy Sheriff with great pride. Mr. Lucio retired from his civil service in 1979, and enjoyed his retirement as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and the Disabled American Veterans of America. He also took great strength from his faith as a Roman Catholic parishioner of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Mr. Lucio is survived by his 19 grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and four step-great-grandchildren. His eldest son, Texas State Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr., has served as a public official for over 33 years. He has left behind a remarkable legacy in his children, who have de-

grees in education, administration, supervision, business, engineering, classical music, law, medicine, theater arts, school counseling, chemistry, biology, pharmaceutical sciences, and technology. He truly led by example and inspired his children to be the best they could be in achieving their dreams and goals.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Mr. Eduardo Lucio, Sr.

WORDS OF CONDOLENCE CONCERNING A DEDICATED EDUCATOR

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is with much sadness that I rise to recognize a teacher and friend, Sona Polakowski. She succumbed to cancer on September 15. I join her husband Bob, her daughter Jen, her son Mark, her family, friends and admirers in mourning her loss and in celebrating her life.

Born in Jersey City, NJ, Sona resided in Lawrenceville, NJ for the past 35 years. A graduate of Seton Hall University, she was project director for math and science at the Lawrence Township Board of Education. Sona was a member of the New Jersey Education Association, National Science Teachers Association and Congregation Brothers of Israel.

For the past 15 years, it has been my privilege to work with Sona to improve children's education. Her cheerful determination was her most apparent characteristic. She gave hundreds of teachers the confidence and knowledge to teach science; and, most of all, she shared her determination. Her effect on others will remain with thousands of students for generations to come. She will be missed by me, my staff, and the many teachers and others with whom she worked.

IN HONOR OF FRANCIS ANTHONY DAVILA-LAWRENCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of the passing of Mr. Francis Anthony Davila-Lawrence, a loving father, veteran, public servant, union leader and community activist who passed away in Brooklyn, New York, on August 5, 2006. I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD his obituary which captures his many contributions and achievements to the great State of New York. We will never forget him. Thank you.

FRANCIS ANTHONY DAVILA-LAWRENCE,
JANUARY 9, 1921–AUGUST 5, 2006

Francis Anthony Davila-Lawrence, known by some friends as Frank and by other friends as Francisco, left this life on August 5, 2006 at 85 years of age. Francis was born in Harlem Hospital on January 9, 1921 to a Panamanian-Caribbean mother and a Cuban father.

Francis was a New Yorker. He spent the majority of his life working and building businesses in and about New York City. Francis married twice, raising three chil-

dren, whom he loved dearly. With his first wife, Eunice Williams, they raised a son, Michael, and a daughter, Aleta. Later in life, he married Louise Simon, and raised a second son, Jason.

With Frank's passing goes a library of stories and experiences. He grew up during the Great Depression. He attended the very first World's Fair, seeing a microwave decades before they would ever come to use in an American household. He traveled throughout the Bronx, Harlem, and Jamaica, Queens during his youth in a Ford Model T, which he said had terrible brakes. He served in the Navy during World War II, and then went on to serve with the Merchant Marines as a civilian worker, and in the Coast Guard during the 1950s.

He was a hard worker. Frank worked as a cook at several of the large hotels and restaurants in Manhattan before going to work at the New York City Board of Education, where he worked 30 years, retiring as a Senior IBM TAB Operator. He had been one of the few Black or Latino workers to be trained to work on the then-massive IBM computers, which took up whole floors to do what we do today with a laptop. While at the Board of Education, he was an active unionist, serving in several union leadership positions. He was an active participant in the fight for dignity and fair wages for working people.

Francis dreamed of bigger and better things for his family and worked to provide opportunities for his children. He worked to exhaustion to make sure his family had what they needed. Later, as a haustion real estate investor, he amassed properties across New York City and elsewhere. Frank worked so much that his family often joked that he worked eight days per week. In addition to his full-time job, he maintained a number of supplemental jobs, including working as a cook at Brooklyn's famous Junior's Restaurant, working weekends for the Free Sons of Israel, and as a security guard for the ILGWU (International Ladies Garment Workers Union).

After his retirement at age 65, he purchased a small newsstand in Manhattan's Wall Street district "just to keep himself busy." Frank's personality and laughter lit up rooms. He had a gleam in his eye, and hardly held his tongue. He was an excellent dancer. Throughout his life, he was an avid reader, taking his glasses off and squinting one eye to get a clear look at the words on the pages of the New York Post or the Amsterdam News. He thoroughly enjoyed the fantastic stories of the National Enquirer.

He had a gentle place in his heart that was untouched by life's hardships. He loved dogs and cats. He also loved children, putting a ship's silver dollar for luck into many babies' hands. He was an optimist about his health, the future, and his ability to do things at any point in his life.

As a youth, he adventured widely, seeing many parts of the world. When asked about his life's long list of adventures, he said that more than anything he accomplished during this lifetime, he found joy in seeing his children brought into the world. He instilled a sense of family, honor, and justice in his children, maintaining these things mattered most in life.

He loved his children passionately. Family was the most important thing in his life and he was more than anything else, a proud father of three wonderful children whose successes filled him with pride throughout his life.

Frank leaves to mourn his loss wife Louise, ex-wife Eunice, children Michael, Aleta and Jason, daughter-in-law Norma, sisters Gloria, Angela, and Marie, and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

MARK BRICKMAN—A MAN IN THE KNOW

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the transparency that makes our legal system the best in the world requires that the public have access to its proceedings, and a chance to view the record. Although often overlooked, the court reporter is an integral component of this system as he or she sits quietly in the courtroom diligently producing a transcript of the trial. In addition to their work in the courtroom, freelance court reporters are hired to work at depositions and to transcribe conversations between parties. I recently read about the extraordinary work of one court reporter named Mark Brickman, a constituent of mine from San Mateo, CA, and wanted to share his story with my colleagues.

Mark was born in San Francisco, but moved to Millbrae, CA as a teenager. A talented musician, he graduated from Mills High School and went on to San Francisco State University intent on pursuing his interest in music. At his parent's request he agreed to consider a more "typical" career and like many college students he explored multiple options before finding his calling as a court reporter.

Mr. Speaker, after passing the California State Court Reporters exam, Mark worked for a couple of different firms before his entrepreneurial spirit lead him to start his own firm Brickman Deposition Reporting in 1986. Like so many successful enterprises this company was started out of his house, before growing and now operating out of San Francisco. Mark's success has taken him across the country and around the globe. However, even more impressive is the fact that Mark is still able to make sure he is always around for his wife Cynthia, herself a court reporter, and their children. Although able to type over 100 words a minute, Mark is taking the time to write a book with advice for step-fathers.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mark Brickman, a professional court reporter and a terrific guy and to read more about him in the following article from the San Mateo Daily Journal.

A MAN IN THE KNOW

(By Heather Murtagh)

Mark Brickman isn't an ordinary reporter, but the man is in the know.

He can type fast. He knows a lot about many topics and he can keep a secret.

Brickman, 49, is one of thousands of court reporters paving their own way tailoring a job that fits their lifestyle. It wasn't the path Brickman believed he would end up on—music was his passion.

Brickman moved from San Francisco with his family to Millbrae when he was 13. He graduated from Mills High School in the early 1970s. Before leaving the school, Brickman made his mark in the music department. By playing the clarinet and saxophone, Brickman was able to partake in all things music around the campus. The musical love even brought him over to Europe for a class trip.

He began San Francisco State University wholeheartedly committed to studying music. At his parent's request he looked into studying a more lucrative area—like business. It was the first of many changes before

a neighbor introduced him to court reporting.

"It was right up my alley. I was always into words and I love politics and being social," he said.

Once he found the right career the motivation just hit Brickman. Since private school allowed him to focus on the court reporting rather than general education, Brickman was able to finish in two years—graduating in 1978. While in school Brickman worked as a typist for a court reporting firm. It took him two tries to pass the court reporting exam, but once he did his hard work paid off as he was offered a job.

There are two types of court reporters—actual court reporters and freelance reporters. Court reporters sit in the courtroom transcribing what is being said. Freelance reporters complete depositions, transcribe conversations and complete any paperwork outside of the courtroom. Brickman is primarily a freelance reporter but he dabbles in courtrooms from time to time—only for topics that interest him.

He produces hundreds of pages in a day, and it's not because of his typing skills. Brickman can type over 100 words per minute but court reporters use a different method of typing. The language is a special kind of shorthand, which sometimes consists of typing two letters simultaneously. To type the, for example, Brickman just presses "t," and the word if is the letters t and p pressed at the same time. It's a difficult language to master, said Brickman, but the work is worthwhile.

Brickman worked for a couple of firms before opening Brickman Deposition Reporting in 1986, the firm is currently in San Francisco but started in his bedroom in Foster City. It's the kind of job, which can be as consuming or low maintenance as a worker could want. Reporters are paid between \$4 to \$10 per page. Brickman's work has taken him to multiple states and as far as Tokyo. He's listened in on the personal information of Debbi Fields, the woman behind Mrs. Fields, and self-help guru Deepak Chopra.

Brickman loves being in the know of personal and political situations going on around the nation. The career, he said, is great for anyone needing flexibility in a work schedule. It's also something that requires lots of work, accuracy and studying to get right. Brickman had one professor who would read names and numbers out of the phone book for hours as they transcribed it—a task he hated at the time.

"I could kiss his forehead. Twenty-six years later and I still use those skills," he said.

Despite his busy schedule, Brickman still makes time to have a life. He lives in San Mateo with his wife of four years, Cynthia, and her 18-year-old daughter Erika. Cynthia has four children, two girls and two boys. Brickman adopted Beverlee, the older daughter, just a few months before he married Cynthia.

Brickman met Beverlee at a convention for court reporters, which they both are, when Brickman first started dating his wife. He instantly felt protective of her. When the idea to adopt her was brought up, Brickman never looked back.

Even with success in business Brickman said it's important to have a balance with family and an outside life. He spends much time with his wife and children. He'd love to help with a national election one day. When he has the chance he loves to write. In fact, he's currently working on a book detailing his experiences with mixing families and tips for stepfathers.

TRIBUTE TO GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF ARMENIA ON THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of Armenia on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of their independence from the Soviet Union.

Since September 21, 1991, Armenia has faced the daunting challenge of building a modern free market economy on the crumbling foundations of Communism. In spite of the situation as they inherited it, Armenia's story has been one of increasing success against long odds. As a member of the World Trade Organization, and a country committed to privatizing their economy, Armenia has seen positive economic growth rates since 1995. While there remains much work to be done, I am confident that the people of Armenia, with their long history of triumph over adversity, will succeed again in making their country a beacon of hope in its troubled part of the world.

Throughout their history, the Armenian people have proven both their desire and determination to be free. I am proud to join my colleagues in acknowledging the anniversary of independence for the free government of the Armenian people who have been ruled by the Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Persian, Ottoman empires as well as the Soviet Union.

On this important occasion, I extend my congratulations to the people and government of Armenia.

ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY REMARKS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 15th anniversary of the independence of Armenia. On this day in 1991, Armenia was finally given the opportunity for self-rule for the first time in centuries. After suffering under harsh rule of the Turks, who attempted to slaughter them, and then the Soviets, who imprisoned them and persecuted them for their Christian beliefs, Armenia is now heading for a bright future filled with liberty and economic growth.

After decades of stagnation under the failed communist economic system, Armenia now ranks as the 27th most economically free nation in the world. A member of the World Trade Organization, Armenia is working through the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to grow its economy. I have strong faith that Armenia will continue to grow despite the harsh embargoes of its neighbors in Georgia and Turkey.

Armenia is justifiably proud of its deep cultural roots that go back to the dawn of recorded civilization. Ninety-nine percent of Armenians are literate and they have preserved both a distinct language and alphabet. Located in the shadow of the famed Mt. Ararat,